

LETTERIP

To the Editor:

Once again, the grim spectre of peacetime conscription has appeared on the American scene. Proponents of conscription, speaking through the influential Citizens Committee for Universal Military Training, are seeking to establish conscription as a permanent part of the training of American youth. Support of the secretary of war and the chief of staff is claimed by the committee. And now, the President has asked Congress for conscription.

Men of reason everywhere are asking why peacetime conscription? Reflection on the consequences of such an action reveals that our allies would be given sound and immediate reason to doubt our intentions. It would imply that we do not trust our present allies, and are preparing to ready ourselves for an attack upon any of them.

Yet advocates of conscription advance two seemingly logical arguments for its continuation in peacetime. It will, they maintain, ameliorate the condition of physical fitness of the nation's young men. The shocking state of physical unfitness, as revealed by the present draft, must, they cry, be remedied by universal manhood training. This is indeed ridiculous. How can conscription repair the organic disabilities contracted in infancy and early childhood through disease or malnutrition? The medical division of selective service has itself stated that unless begun in the early school years, the raising of physical fitness is impossible.

The second reason offered by advocates of conscription is that military service teaches discipline. Concerning this fallacy, the Christian Century writes: "The discipline of the drill sergeant is not the self-discipline of democracy. Military discipline provides excellent training for citizenship in a totalitarian society. It does not prepare men for the responsibilities of an order in which they must think for themselves, in which they must exercise freedom of choice and initiative of action. Conscription, unavoidable in time of war, is repugnant to peacetime America."

He who urges peacetime conscription should ask himself two questions. Who is going to pay the staggering costs necessitated by such a program? Against whom are we preparing to fight a third world war?

Wallace Becker.

V . . . — Mail Clippings

Pat Chamberlin, Censor

Ensign DOROTHY JEAN BROWN, former bookkeeper of the Union and member of the "Union union," was recently back on campus from the navy supply school at Radcliffe university.

Lt. "RUSTY" SWANSON, another Union union man and well known for his glass-breaking process in the grill, is stationed at the Lincoln Air Base awaiting assignment. He is an aerial navigator.

Flight Officer BOB TEGT, Phi Psi, is now stationed at the Lincoln Air Base awaiting assignment to a flight crew. The Phi Psis want it noted that they see little of Bob, as he spends most of his time at the Pi Phi house with Kathy Legge.

Capt. WAYNE M. WIEGERT, of Lawrenceburg, Ind., is entitled to wear the Distinguished Unit Badge, mark of highest citation awarded units of the AAF. Capt. Weigert is a squadron engineering officer of a B-26 Marauder bomber group in the Mediterranean theater.

Pvt. LEO CORNELIUS is attending the dental technicians' school at William Beaumont General Hospital in El Paso, Tex.

"MARV" ATHEY, Delta Upsilon, has received a commission as second lieutenant from Hondo Army Air Field, Hondo, Tex.

MERLE E. WARD has been promoted from the rank of first lieutenant to captain "somewhere in Germany," where he is serving as assistant corps anti-tank officer. Captain Ward has been overseas 23 months and has covered England, France, and now Germany.

Maj. JACK A. MARQUARDT writes that he really enjoys the service men's edition in France where he is stationed. He has run into Capt. "WHITIE" REED, who is with a special services section, and Lt. "BILL" ANDRESON, who is awaiting assignment after leaving the Rangers.

Letterip

To the Editor:

The conduct of the student body in the crib is definitely below par. They are turning into rather morbid characters, described as "swing babies" or "lounge lizards." Lying around the crib, dousing lipstick stained "fags" in glasses and dishes instead of the proper receptacles is merely one example of grave social negligence.

The desire to make intricate designs of straws and napkins is indeed a constructive livelihood for those who have something important to convey to their guest or just the best in man to be doing something destructive. Few know that the initial use of a straw is to sip your beverage through.

The waiters often find themselves prostrate upon the floor, either from a stray foot draped casually in the aisle or by an abrupt stop, brought upon by a very emphatic "jerk" (if you'll pardon the phrase) on his coat tail.

During rush periods when the crib is noisy, the conscientious

waiter bends slightly forward to make sure the order is properly taken. He is either greeted with a fog of smoke or a rapid jumble of words to this effect: "Pack o' Lucks, sack of planters, green river no ice, not very hungry today."

To quote one waiter, "They are darned (pardon the spelling) disgusting to wait on."

This situation could be greatly improved by more co-operation from the student body. We all know what the help situation is at present and consequently should not expect prewar service.

Darrell Brown.

Newman Group Has Annual Party


The Newman club is holding their annual Christmas party Sunday from 4 to 6 p. m. in rooms XYZ of the Union. All Catholic students are urged to attend. Mass will be at 11 a. m. in parlors XYZ of the Student Union.

The Methodist church is holding their annual Christmas worship at 6:30 in St. Paul's church. The regular fellowship lunch and program will be at 5:30.

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A

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